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FINAL PROJECT IN TRANSLATION (2)

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How to select a topic?

1) Select a topic that interests you:

Selecting a topic is possibly the most difficult part of doing research.

So, start by choosing a topic that you like or are curious about. You are going to be working on it for quite a while, so try and find a topic that you are interested in and that you can reasonably cover in the time and space available.

How to select a topic?

2) books, journals & Internet

Taking a few minutes to read in the area that you are interested in.

* Try to spend some time just browsing your course books, dictionaries, handouts or handbooks.

* try to spend some time just browsing the books in the section of translation, education, etc. or the Internet.

Note: You will probably refine and refocus your topic several times before you finalize it.

These chapters in books, articles in journals and the like are good places to start your research, in particular when you

* know nothing or little about a topic,

* need an overview of a subject, or

* want a quick summary of basic ideas.

They are also useful for discovering the names of important people, and can familiarize you with the vocabulary of the field. Encyclopedia articles are often followed by carefully selected bibliographies or lists of references to other works, useful items to have as you begin looking for additional information.

Exercise

Your task:

1) Before the lecture, please go to the library and spend some time just browsing the books in the section of translation, education, etc.

2) bring as many ideas/topics as you can with you to class.

3) In class, write out your topic as a statement (short sentence or question) and select the main concepts:

Example:

The research statement:

"Can translators produce full/optimal equivalents in translation"

has two main concepts:

1) translation (translator/process/product)

2) equivalent (full)

4) Start making a list of words to describe your topic:

Start compiling a list of the key words that you will use as you search for your topic. The way terms are used in some fields can be very different from standard everyday usage. The Reference Desk can help you find specialized dictionaries and thesauri to define unfamiliar terms and quickly build a useful list of key words to search on.

How to narrow down your topic?

- The best way to narrow your topic is to apply a few of the old familiar question words, like
- Who?
- What?
- Where?
- When?
- Why?
- How?

Another method to narrow down your topic

Also, there are certain questions that need to be raised by trainees to narrow down their own topics, depending on their area:

1) **groups** – is there a particular group of people that you want to focus on?

2) **language** – is there a particular language that you want to focus on?

3) **sample** – short story, poem, person (Shakespeare, for example)

4) **text type** – legal (contracts, agreements, etc.), business (advertising, banking, oil, etc.), journalistic (visits, letters, columns, etc.), scientific (space, medicine, etc.), religious (Quran, Hadith, etc.), literary (short stories, poems, novels, etc.), etc.

5) **period/time span** – is there a particular period (month, year, decade, etc.) that you want to focus on?

6) **point of view/aspect** – is there a particular aspect/point of view (linguistics, pragmatics, culture, semiotics, stylistics, register, etc.) that you want to focus on?

Exercise

Topic: *translating idioms* (general topic)

Who is the translator? students, professional, etc.

Students – their level (first year, second year, etc.)

What are the languages?

Language pair – between Arabic and English.

What is the directionality?

from Arabic into English.

In which text type?

In literary texts.

In which literary texts?

In novels

In which novel?

In Mahfuz's novel أولاد حارتنا

What types of idioms?

In body-related idioms / war idioms / love idioms / anger idioms …

Now: *translating body-related idioms in Mahfouz's novel أولاد حارتنا/translated by two professional translators* (specific topic)

Note: Your research question, methodology or motivation will narrow it down more …

Have the two translators opted for foreignization or demostication?

Narrow down the following topics --- translation

1- Translating metaphor.

2- Translating Quran.

3- How to translate connotative meanings of words?

4- The difficulties that students face in translation.

7- Translating newspapers.

8- A comparative study of homonymy between Arabic and English.

9- How to translate cohesive devices?

10- Translation problems.

Thank you

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